

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for establishing a personal communication between an originating end and a terminating end of a communication system, the method comprising steps of:

retrieving a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with the originating end, **the first plurality comprising a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the originating end;**

selecting one of the first plurality of personal communication modes, wherein the selecting step comprises:

retrieving a second plurality of personal communication modes associated with the terminating end, the second plurality comprising a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the terminating end;

determining if **[[a]] the** second plurality of personal communication modes associated with the terminating end comprises any personal communication modes compatible with the first plurality of personal communication modes, and

automatically ~~choosing~~ **matching** a compatible personal communication mode **comprising a highest ranked match** from the **prioritized ranking of the** first plurality of personal communication modes and the **prioritized ranking of the** second plurality of personal communication modes; and

indicating the compatible personal communication mode to the terminating end, wherein the compatible personal communication mode uses a communication transport method selected from a group consisting of: facsimile communication, text pager messaging, numeric

pager messaging, text wireless phone messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram messaging, voice over switched network communication, voice over packet switched network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless voice phone communication, cordless voice phone communication, voice over radio communication, satellite phone communication, voice mail messaging, video conferencing, and video phone communication.

2. (Original) The method for establishing the personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:

receiving the first plurality of personal communication modes from a first user associated with the originating end; and

receiving the second plurality of personal communication modes from a second user associated with the terminating end.

3. (Original) The method for establishing the personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the compatible personal communication mode couples communication between individuals.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The method for establishing the personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first plurality of compatible personal communication modes are stored in a database that is one of: remote to the originating end, remote to the terminating end, proximate to the originating end, and proximate to the terminating end.

6. (Original) The method for establishing the personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in

claim 1, wherein the automatically choosing step is based, at least in part, upon input received from one of an originating end and a terminating end.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically selecting a compatible personal communication mode between an originating end and terminating end of a communication system, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with a originating end, **the first plurality comprising a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the originating end;**

receiving a second plurality of personal communication modes associated with a terminating end, **the second plurality comprising a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the terminating end;**

initiating a first personal communication between the originating end and terminating end;

automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode ~~based upon~~ **comprising a highest ranked match between** the **prioritized ranking of the** first plurality of personal communication modes and the **prioritized ranking of the** second plurality of personal communication modes; and

automatically initiating a second personal communication using the compatible personal communication mode, wherein the compatible personal communication mode uses a communication transport method selected from a group consisting of: facsimile communication, text pager messaging, numeric pager messaging, text wireless phone messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram messaging, voice over switched network communication, voice over packet switched network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless voice phone communication, cordless voice phone communication, voice over radio communication, satellite phone communication, voice mail messaging, video teleconferencing, and video phone communication.

8. (Original) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, further comprising a step of determining that a first personal communication mode for the first personal communication is unavailable.

9. (Original) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the selecting step comprises steps of negotiating the compatible personal communication mode with a first decision tree associated with the originating end and a second decision tree associated with the terminating end.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the compatible personal communication mode couples communication between individuals.

12. (Original) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the first plurality of compatible personal communication modes are stored in a database that is one of: remote to the originating end, remote to the terminating end, proximate to the originating end, and proximate to the terminating end.

13. (Currently Amended) A personal communication system for establishing personal communication between a originating end and a terminating end, the personal communication system comprising:

a first plurality of personal communication modes associated with the originating end;

a second plurality of personal communication modes associated with the terminating end;

a first personal communication mode that couples the originating end and the terminating end together; and

a decision mechanism ~~for~~ configured to:

receive a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the originating end;

receive a prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the terminating end; and

automatically ~~choosing~~ compare each prioritized ranking to identify a highest ranked match comprising a second personal communication mode ~~that is compatible with at least one of mode in each of the first plurality of personal communication modes and the second plurality of personal communication modes~~, wherein the ~~first and second communication modes each use a communication transport mode~~ second personal communication mode comprises a mode selected from a group consisting of: facsimile communication, text pager messaging, numeric pager messaging, text wireless phone messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail messaging, telegraph messaging, telegram messaging, voice over switched network communication, voice over packet switched network, voice over Internet protocol, wireless voice phone communication, cordless voice phone communication, voice over radio communication, satellite phone communication, voice mail messaging, video conferencing, and video phone communication.

14. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein a determination is made that the first personal communication mode is unavailable before the decision mechanism chooses the second personal communication mode.

15. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the decision mechanism is in the terminating end.

16. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, further comprising a query menu presented to a user associated with the originating end, wherein presentment of the query menu is performed in response to the first communication mode being unavailable.

17. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the first plurality of personal communication modes is sent from originating end to the terminating end using the first personal communication mode.

18. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the second personal communication mode is different from the first personal communication mode.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The personal communication system for establishing personal communication between the originating end and the terminating end as recited in claim 13, wherein the first plurality of compatible personal communication modes are stored in a database that is one of: remote to the originating end, remote to the terminating end, proximate to the originating end, and proximate to the terminating end.

21. (New) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein:

the prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the originating end are chosen by the originating end; and

the prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the terminating end are chosen by the terminating end.

22. (New) The method for automatically selecting the compatible personal communication mode between the originating end and the terminating end of the communication system as recited in claim 7, wherein the highest ranked match is selected using a decision mechanism with inputs based only on:

the prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the originating end; and

the prioritized ranking of the personal communication modes associated with the terminating end.